

Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Division of epidemiology and Immunization

To: Pediatric Care Providers

From: Robert Morrison, Manager  
Vaccine Management Unit

Date: September 8, 2008

**Re: Additional Doses of State-Supplied Thimerosal-Free Influenza Vaccine in 0.25 ml Pre-Filled Syringes — Now Available!**

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**Availability of Thimerosal-Free Influenza Vaccine for Children < 3 Years of Age**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has a supply of thimerosal-free influenza vaccine and is making it available at no cost to providers. This formulation is provided in 0.25 mL pre-filled syringes and is **licensed for children 6 through 35 months of age**.

To order this vaccine, contact the MDPH Vaccine Management Unit by email ([vaccine-management@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:vaccine-management@massmail.state.ma.us)), or by calling 617-983-6828.

If you do not have sufficient space at this point in time, you can reserve this formulation for later in the season.

Recommendations for Influenza Vaccination of Younger Children
<p><b>Dosages:</b></p> <p><b>Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (TIV) for Children:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children 6 through 35 months of age: 0.25 mL</li><li>• Children and adults <math>\geq 3</math> years of age: 0.5 mL</li></ul> <p><b><u>Live Attenuated Intranasal Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) for Children:</u></b></p> <p>0.2mL sprayer, regardless of age.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations for Influenza Vaccination of Children :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All children aged &lt; 9 years of age who have not been vaccinated against influenza previously should receive 2 doses of the vaccine, <math>\geq 4</math> weeks apart, the first flu season they are vaccinated.</li><li>• Children &lt; 9 years of age who were vaccinated for the first time during the 2007 – 2008 flu season, but received only one dose that season should receive 2 doses during the 2008 – 2009 season.</li><li>• All other children &lt; 9 years of age who have previously received <math>\geq 1</math> dose of influenza vaccine at any time should receive 1 dose of the 2008 – 2009 influenza vaccine.</li></ul> <p>If possible, both doses should be administered before the onset of influenza season. However, vaccination, including the second dose, is recommended even after influenza virus begins to circulate in the community. Vaccine administered in December or later, even if influenza activity has already begun, is likely to be beneficial in the majority of influenza seasons.</p>